EXHIBIT 6

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT				
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK				
CASE NO. 18-MD-2865 (LA	(K)			
)			
IN RE:)			
)			
CUSTOMS AND TAX ADMINISTRATION OF)			
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK)			
(SKATTEFORVALTNINGEN) TAX REFUND)			
SCHEME LITIGATION)			
)			
This document relates to case nos.)			
19-cv-01783; 19-cv-01788; 19-cv-01794	l;)			
19-cv-01798; 19-cv-01918)			
)			

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTIVE ORDER

REMOTE VTC VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION UNDER ORAL

EXAMINATION OF

RICHARD MARKOWITZ

DATE: April 8, 2021

REPORTED BY: MICHAEL FRIEDMAN, CCR

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40 (Pages 154 to 157)

Page 154

All right. And do you know what 1 2 the standard settlement date was in Denmark 3 for Danish securities at the time?

I don't recall. It was trade date plus a certain number of business days.

I don't exactly recall the number.

Okay. I'll represent to you that at the time it was "T plus 3."

And do you understand "T plus 3" to mean that the settlement date is three days past the trade date?

> Three business days, correct. Α

Q Yes. I was about to say that excludes weekends or holidays.

Correct?

Α Yes.

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Q Okay. So I'll represent to you that there was a two-day weekend between those two dates, which would make it a "T plus 4" settlement.

Were you aware that the pension plan was purchasing Danish securities with a "T plus 4" settlement date?

Assuming there were no other 24 25 holidays other than the weekend you've

Page 155

described, then this would be "T plus 4." 1

Okay. Were you aware that the 2 settlement date used in the transaction at the time was a day beyond the normal 4 5 settlement date?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

Again, I don't agree with your I was aware that it was a "T plus 4" settlement. 9

Okay. Were you aware that the standard in Denmark at the time was "T plus 3?"

Α The standard for exchange transactions done on the exchange, or over-the-counter transactions?

Is there a separate standard settlement date for over-the-counter transactions?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

Settlement date is whenever the parties agree, and if the exchange is one of the parties, they say what it is. If it's between two counterparties, the settlement date could be "T plus zero" up to "T plus 110."

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Did you understand that the standard exchange settlement date in Denmark at the time was "T plus 3?"

I don't know if I knew of those Α particulars at the time.

But were you aware at the time that part of the strategy was that the settlement for the purchase of the shares would happen one day past the exchange -- the standard settlement date on the exchange?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

All I was aware of was -- again, taking your word for it -- that in this case, that trades settled four business days later than the trade date.

Okay. And your understanding is that that was a negotiated term.

Is that right?

Yes. Α

Okay. Why did the pension plan negotiate that term, Mr. Markowitz,

22 "T plus 4?"

(Witness reviewing.)

24 More is better to come up with the 25 cash required.

Page 157

That was your understanding, that the plan negotiated because more was better to get the cash required?

Yes. In my experience, the more days you have to settle the trade, the better it is for the party obligated to pay.

Okay. And what was your understanding as to why the seller of the shares in this case would be willing to give you more time to buy the shares than is the standard settlement time in the country?

Α Part of the negotiation on the price at which the transaction would be done.

Wasn't the transaction Q negotiated -- wasn't the price negotiated to just be end-of-day market price?

17 As I explained earlier, the seller 18 and the market pricing allocates a certain 19 amount of the profit of a dividend arbitrage transaction to the other counterparties in 21 the deal, including the seller. So accepting a certain share, or pricing and market terms, 22 23 they would have agreed to this "T plus 4."

24 Who undertook this negotiation with 25 the seller on behalf of the Michelle plan?

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41 (Pages 158 to 161)

Page 158

A Back in April of 2012, following the e-mail you mentioned, we had a call with Solo in which we learned that they were becoming a custodian, and terms of trades and liquidity in the market and pricing in the market was explained to us at that time.

And that included a share between the seller and the buyer.

- 9 **Q** Okay. Were you part of that 10 discussion that you just described happened 11 with Mr. Shah?
 - A Yes.

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- 13 **Q** Where did that take place?
- 14 A A telephone discussion.
 - **Q** Okay. Who was a participant?
- 16 A I was on the call, one or more of 17 my partners may have been on the call, and 18 representatives of Solo Capital were on the 19 call.
- 20 **Q** Okay. And during that call, the 21 Solo people said that they were becoming a 22 custodian?
- 23 A That they had become a custodian.
- 24 **Q** Okay. And so we saw a bunch of
- 25 e-mails earlier where they were trying to get

Page 159

1 other financial institutions to serve as 2 custodian.

3 Did they not get any that would 4 serve in that role?

- A I don't know.
- 6 **Q** Okay. But it turned out that when 7 the dividend arbitrage trading began with 8 Denmark, it was going to be Solo Capital who 9 was the custodian for the trading?
- 10 A The discussions we had with Solo 11 initially were that the trading would be in 12 Belgium and those were the trades we did 13 initially.
- 14 **Q** Okay. And for the Belgian trades 15 initially, Solo Capital was going to be the 16 custodian?
 - A Yes.
- 18 **Q** And then, as we see in August of 19 2012, this plan started trading in Denmark.

Was Solo Capital --

- 21 **A** Yes
 - **Q** Was Solo Capital the custodian as
- 23 well?
 - A Yes.
 - Q Okav. So tell me.

Page 160

what -- withdrawn.

What did the Solo folks tell you on that phone call about how the trading would work and the counterparties?

A They said that Solo had worked to get approvals from the British regulators to become a custodian, that they had hired legal and compliance staff, securities finance people, and that with customers who became clients of Solo as a custodian, they would be able to purchase shares from — through brokers, from the market, for other sellers of the shares, and hedge those transactions through their accounts at Solo for futures contracts and, if needed, lend shares to a borrower who would post collateral pursuant to a standard stock lending agreement.

Q Okay. You mentioned earlier that — something about that there would be negotiations with the sellers of the shares about terms such as price and settlement date.

What did they tell you on that phone call about that?

A That the pricing — market pricing

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- would be a 50-50 split between the buyers and the sellers, and that the customer of Solo, our customer, on the long side, the purchaser of shares, would pay the normal 34 percent of its profit to Solo, as we did when they were acting as the investment manager.
 - **Q** Okay. How was the 50-50 split between the buyer and seller going to work? How did they accomplish that?
 - A From our earliest days of the Broadgate Fund, in cases where you had to file for a refund, we insisted that other participants in the deal accept their profit in the trade on a contingent basis, so that, ordinarily, the pricing would be reflected in the price you sold shares for in the hedging of the transaction.

But starting with the Broadgate
Fund and Merrill Lynch, and the
counterparties that Merrill Lynch involved,

- 21 we wanted to have the other participants
- 22 receive their profit on a contingent basis.
- 23 So that's where, whether it was 75/25, 60/40,
- 24 or 50/50, when the transactions were
- 25 completed and you tallied up the pluses and

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43 (Pages 166 to 169)

Page 166

get its money, the profit -- the 50 percent profit that is earned from this strategy?

> Α I don't know.

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Q From whom is the seller going to get that money?

Α Based on our experience from the Broadgate Fund, it would be up to the arrangers of the trade, the other participants in the trade, to compensate those other counterparties. And we were not privy to those discussions. We're not party to those discussions.

And as I said, we left it to Solo to decide when and if and how they would pay those other counterparties who were participating in the trades.

Okay. So Solo was the arranger in a this trade?

Yes, arranger and custodian. They had a lot of responsibilities in order to allow and facilitate the trades on behalf of various counterparties.

Okay. And the "T plus 4" 23 24 settlement date, who was responsible for negotiating that with the seller?

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I don't recall. No, let me take 1 Α 2 that back. I'm sorry.

3 The pension plan would ask for -- ask brokers if there was liquidity in 4 the market to buy shares on the following terms. Terms included closing price, market 7 price, trade date, settlement date.

8 And so, those terms were given to 9 the broker, and if the broker could fill those trades at those terms, the transaction 10 would move forward.

So I assume the pension plan giving instructions and requests for liquidity from brokers would start that process.

And was that use of brokers going into the market to execute on behalf of a client, was that a typical process from your experience in the financial industry?

19 I'm sorry. You faded out towards 20 the end of that question.

If you could repeat it?

Yeah. Was the use of brokers to go into the market to try to execute a trade on 24 behalf of a client, was that a typical process in your experience in the financial

Page 168

industry?

Among two institutions who wanted to effect trades, the use of an inter-dealer broker or an institutional dealer broker, yes, that was common.

Okay. An inter-dealer broker in the market, what they do is, one institution calls and says "we want to buy a certain amount of a certain share at a certain price," and then they go into the market and see if they can meet that request.

Right?

I don't know specifically how they I assume they would call up other customers who might be willing sellers of that share, of that security, and are matching a buyer with a seller.

And in this case, when you said that the pension plan would issue instructions to the broker for what trade it wanted to do, you're talking about what share, what price, and what volume.

Correct?

Α And the settlement terms.

Q Meaning what? Meaning just the Page 169

"T plus 4" or the "T plus 3?"

Is that what you mean?

Yes.

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

When you instructed the broker to seek someone in the market for that trade, did you put in the instructions that one of the terms is a 50/50 split on the overall profit from the dividend arbitrage strategy?

Α

Q Wasn't that a key term in getting this deal executed?

I assume that you -- the broker was aware of that in terms of being offered that to a potential seller, that Solo was aware of that. And if the sellers and the brokers were customers of Solo, Solo would make that aware to them.

And again, we allowed or left all of that to Solo. And if there was a seller who didn't demand 50 percent, may have demanded zero or 10 percent, that was up to Solo and the brokers to figure that one out. We were not party to those discussions.

We knew what we would be -- our

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44 (Pages 170 to 173)

Page 170

1 percentage would be, and it would be up to the other counterparties to source the shares from the market. That's the commissions we pay a broker to do, and with knowledge, if they needed it, of what additional potential profit or earnings they could make on that transaction.

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But -- so when you're instructing the broker, you're -- it sounds like you're not giving all the terms of the ultimate deal with the selling counterparty. Right?

Α We gave the terms of the trade that we needed to do to execute the trade. And again, the contingent profitability is in every dividend arbitrage strategy we worked on going back to Merrill Lynch and the Broadgate Fund.

It was up to the -- I will borrow your term -- the arrangers to sort out how they brought other counterparties to the trade to make it successful and on -- comply with all the legal and tax requirements needed to do so.

> And here, this TDC trade on 0kav.

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behalf of the Michelle plan, that wasn't the only trade that was going to be happening as part of this strategy, right?

Meaning, just to be clear, there were going to be other plans executing very similar trades in the same stock.

Correct?

8 Yeah, dividend-paying stocks. 9 Those were -- that was the focus on the 10 strategy.

Right. So, for example, on a day where the Michelle plan was going to buy this many shares of TDC, you understood that other pension plans associated with you or the Argre principals were also going to buy TDC shares in similar volumes on the same day. Right?

17 18 No. I understood that on that 19 trade date, or around that trade date, as 20 long as it was prior to the date of the general annual meeting, many pension funds, 21 both here in the U.S. or Canada, around the 22 23 world, people who had tax treaties would look 24 to trade dividend-paying stocks.

And of those many, there were going

Page 172

to be guite a few that had your name attached to it or your Argre principals' names attached to them.

Correct?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

Let me withdraw it.

It's very simple, Mr. Markowitz. When you undertook this trade on behalf of the Michelle plan on August 8, 2012, you understood that other pension plans associated with the Argre principals were also going to purchase TDC shares in similar amounts on the same trade date.

Correct?

Other pension plans were customers of Solo, were focused and interested in a dividend arbitrage trades on the terms that we understood them, and I don't know about your comment on the amounts, if they were similar or different. I don't know that.

Each of the customers would be trading an amount that was consistent with their own investment needs and/or the liquidity in the marketplace.

And how did you understand the

Page 173

brokers were going to go find the liquidity for these trades in the marketplace?

> From sellers of shares. Α

Okay. Where did you expect they were going to find these sellers?

In all the dividend arbitrage strategies we had looked at and participated in, that was up to the brokers to find that liquidity, given the economics of the trade and the advantage of dividend arbitrage.

As I said, profitability could be shared. The sellers could have been other investors who were not entitled to the tax benefits. They could have been short sellers, long sellers.

So the source of the stock was up to the brokers and the sellers to obtain 17 based on market liquidity.

18 19 Okay. And was it your 20 understanding that the sellers in each case 21 would be executing on the Solo platform?

22 We were informed by Solo that other 23 counterparty to the trade would likely be 24 customers of Solo as well.

Okay. And is that -- that's true

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52 (Pages 202 to 205)

			52 (Pages 202 to 205)
	Page 202		Page 203
1	how those fees would be parceled out. But it	1	in what locations, as far as you knew?
2	was part of the overall construction of the	2	A We visited their offices in London.
3	trade.	3	I don't know if they had legal offices
4	Q Okay. Other than facilitating	4	elsewhere in the world.
5	getting the money to the right places, did	5	Q Do you know if they had offices in
6	Ganymede, the entity, provide services to the	6	Dubai?
7	pension plans?	7	A I don't know for sure.
8	A I viewed Ganymede and Solo and	8	Q Okay. And where did do you know
9	Sanjay Shah as one entity. So yes, in my	9	where Ganymede was located?
10	belief, there were significant services	10	A I don't recall exactly.
11	provided in developing and becoming a	11	Q Can you turn to the document marked
12	custodian at Solo Capital, and hiring all the	12	Exhibit 2124?
13	staff necessary to allow the custodian to	13	MR. WEINSTEIN: Mark this as 2124.
14	function, and to allow our pension plans or	14	(Whereupon the above mentioned was
15	other pension plans to execute these trades.	15	marked for Identification.)
16	Q Okay. So you viewed Solo Capital	16	A (Witness reviewing.)
17	and Ganymede as interchangeable?	17	Q This is a document that's titled
18	A Yes.	18	"Tax Reclaim Advisory Services Agreement
19	Q Okay. And do you did you have	19	Between Ganymede Cayman Limited and Michelle
20	an understanding as to why you got an	20	Investments Pension Plan Trust."
21	instruction from Mr. Shah to use the Ganymede	21	Are you familiar with this
22	entity on certain occasions as opposed to the	22	document?
23	Solo Capital entity?	23	A Yes.
24	A No.	24	Q Okay. And did you on behalf of
25	Q Okay. Solo Capital had operations	25	Michelle plan, did you execute it?
	Page 204		Page 205
1	A Yes.	1	Q Instruct you to enter into this
2	Q Given that the title of the	2	agreement with Ganymede?
3	Ganymede entity is "Ganymede Cayman Limited,"	3	A He requested that we enter into
4	do you know does that refresh your	4	this agreement.
5	recollection as to where Ganymede was	5	Q Okay. Did you have any discussions
6	located?	6	with him about that?
7	A Yes.	7	A The discussions predate this date
8	Q Okay. Was it in the Cayman	8	to what I explained earlier about our
9	Islands?	9	understanding of how the pension plan would
10	A Yes.	10	participate in these investments, earn its
11	Q Did you ever get to visit?	11	return, have to share the profitability with
12	A Unfortunately not.	12	other parties in the transaction, and that
13	Q Yeah, okay. It says "Dated" on the	13	as similar to the transaction with Merrill
14	first page, but it doesn't have a date.	14	Lynch, we would pay away everything that we
15	Then, on the last page, there's a schedule	15	were not entitled to to Solo or Sanjay or
16	which says, "This schedule is accurate as of	16	Ganymede, what entity they designated, and

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pay that away and let them distribute those

advisory services agreement with an entity in

the Cayman Islands that you never heard of?

In the deal with Merrill Lynch, did

Is it fair to say unlikely, as you

funds as they believed were necessary.

Merrill Lynch ask you to enter into an

I don't remember.

sit here today, that that happened?

19th of October, 2012."

agreement?

Α

Do you believe that's approximately

Did Mr. Shah instruct you to enter

Sorry. Did Mr. Shah do what?

the time that you would have executed the

(Witness reviewing.)

I don't know.

into this agreement with Ganymede?

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55 (Pages 214 to 217)

Page 214

that -- when Michelle purchased the TDC shares in August of 2012?

the terms are.

- A That was my understanding of the terms of the economics to the pension plan and the other counterparties in the trades.
- Q Okay. So why isn't that term reflected in this agreement, that you're going to pay Ganymede 66.67 percent, but that part of that has to go to the seller because the seller gets 50 percent of the profit?

Why was that term not in this agreement?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

A I don't know the answer to that question other than in many business transactions I've worked on, including ones with hundreds of pages of documents, some agreements are discussed and then embodied in percentages, but the parties agree to what

And in every dividend arbitrage transaction we looked at, no matter who the participants were, the most important term was the trading level. And therefore, that was agreed up front with Solo what the

Page 215

1 trading level would be.

- **Q** And by "trading level," you mean 3 how much the seller gets of the profit of the 4 whole strategy?
 - A Yes.
- **Q** All right. And why was the most -- 7 in your words, why was the most significant 8 term to that deal not reflected in a contract 9 like the one we see here?
- **A** It is reflected. It's embodied in 11 that percentage.
 - Q Okay.
- Α And if I might add, from the pension plan's perspective, what it is concerned about is how much profitability it can retain from a dividend arbitrage or structured investment transaction. And how the money that it isn't retaining is paid or not or spent is not the concern of the investor, from my experience.
 - **Q** Prior to entering into the Danish transactions, did you have any understanding from Sanjay Shah about what you could expect to earn for each pension plan that participated?

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A We were supplied with trading information on names of companies that paid dividends, not just in Denmark, but Belgium, and we were able to confirm the amounts of the dividend, the various dates associated with those dividend payments, and we would ask for information from any investment manager or prime broker what liquidity they might be able to achieve in the marketplace.

And it is likely that we received indications of that from Solo Capital.

Q Did Solo Capital give you any indication of a certain amount of money that you could expect to earn for every pension plan that participated?

A I don't recall if they said this pension plan would earn this or not. They gave us a sense of the size of the market in terms of liquidity and shares that they thought would be available and subject to other constraints, and the number of plans that we could have as customers of Solo that would mathematically lead to estimates of profits.

Q What estimates of profits did it

Page 217

l lead to?

A I don't recall.

Q Do you recall whether the estimates 4 of profits were in the thousands, hundreds of 5 thousands, millions?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

- A They were in the millions.
- **Q** Was that with respect to each particular plan that would be involved, or was that on an aggregate basis?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

- A I suspect we looked at it in the aggregate, but knew that at the end of the day there would be different customers earning different amounts based on the volumes that they invested in, the shares they owned, and the trading.
- **Q** So when you said you think the estimate was in the millions, were you talking on an aggregate basis?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Are you -- by "millions," do you mean several million, or tens of millions, or can you define it any more precisely?

			68 (Pages 266 to 269)
	Page 266		Page 267
1	Q Okay. Can you turn, please, to	1	A I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?
2	Exhibit 2142?	2	Q Sure. There was still trading
3	MR. WEINSTEIN: Mark this as 2142.	3	going on, but Solo was not the custodian?
4	(Whereupon the above mentioned was	4	A No.
5	marked for Identification.)	5	Q Okay. So, in July 2014, were any
6	A (Witness reviewing.)	6	plans that you were associated with trading
7	Q Do you see it's an e-mail	7	in Danish securities using Solo as custodian?
8	originally from Solo Capital to, you know,	8	A No.
9	its clients that there's a change in the	9	Q In July 2014, were any plans you
10	custody agreement with an increase to the	10	were associated with trading in Danish
11	minimum cash balance to 500,000 Euros?	11	securities with some other entity as
12	A Yes.	12	custodian?
13	Q Okay. Do you know if that new	13	A No.
14	margin requirement applied to the plans that	14	Q So there was no Danish trading
15	you were associated with?	15	going on during this period of time?
16	A I assume it applied to all clients	16	A During the time you said, yes.
17	at that time, as of August 1, 2014.	17	Q Okay. And was there any Danish
18	Q Did the plans that you were	18	trading going on with any of your plans in a
19	associated with comply with that new margin	19	time where they used Solo as the custodian
20	requirement?	20	and during a time period in which the minimum
21	A The plans that we previously had	21	cash balance was 500,000 Euros?
22	been talking about stopped trading with Solo	22	A No.
23	at that point in time.	23	Q Okay. As part of the Danish
24	Q Okay. So there was still trading	24	securities trading, did the plans onboard
25	going on, but Solo was not the custodian?	25	with various securities brokers?
	Page 268		Page 269
1	A Yes.	1	familiar with any of them that acted in that
2	Q Do you recall which brokers were	2	role?
3	used for Danish trading?	3	A Yes.
4	A One was the e-mail we were	4	Q Which ones were you familiar with
5	previously looking at, FGC Securities.	5	prior to dealing with Solo?
6	Q Okay.	6	A We had met one or two when we made
7	A I recall another name, Novus	7	our first due diligence trip to London in
8	Capital, and there were probably one, two, or	8	2010. In addition to meeting Merrill Lynch
9	three more that I don't recall their names at	9	and Acupay, we met one or more institutional
10	That are a start	10	deather the Control of the Library of the Control o

10 this point. Okay. Were you familiar with Novus 11 12 Capital prior to doing trading with Solo 13 Capital? 14 No. 15 Who introduced Novus as a broker? 16 Solo. 17 Did you perform any due diligence 18 on Novus other than to obtain DML or Patriot Act certificates? 19 20 No. It wouldn't have been our --21 it wouldn't have been something we would have 22 done to deal with a broker that was 23 intermediating trades for us. 24 Prior to using any brokers for the 25 purposes of this Danish trading, were you

dealer -- institutional brokers. 11 And the names I don't recall at 12 this point, but we met at least two of them 13 at that trip. 14 Did you end up using those one or Q 15 two institutional brokers as part of the Danish trading? 16 I don't recall. 17 Α Okay. Had you been familiar with 18 Q 19 FGC Securities before dealing with Solo? 20 21 Q Who introduced FGC Securities as a 22 broker? 23 Solo. Α 24 Q Can you turn, please, to Exhibit 25 2143?

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70 (Pages 274 to 277)

Page 274

reports that Solo asked him "to onboard with three new brokers yesterday," and then he identifies those three.

Do you have any understanding why Solo asked to have the plans onboarded with three new brokers?

> No Α

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Had you ever heard of Bastion Capital, Mako Financial or the TJM Partnership prior to Mr. LaRosa introducing them through this e-mail?

> No. Α

Q 13 As far as you understood, was it Solo that introduced those brokers into the 14 15 mix?

Solo asked Mr. LaRosa to onboard with those three new brokers.

Okay. Do you know if the plans ever used any of these three brokers in connection with trading of Danish securities?

I think so, ves.

Okay. Whose job was it on behalf of the plans to decide which broker to go to to seek liquidity for any particular trade?

It's part of the allocation process Α

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that we received from Solo in terms of the liquidity and shares. We'd also be given information as to which of those brokers would source that liquidity or had access to 4 5 that liquidity.

So Solo would provide us a number of shares that they saw in the marketplace or could arrange in the marketplace, and also the identity of the brokers who would be able to handle the trades on behalf of the pension plans.

So prior to the plans entering into the purchase of the securities, the plan would receive information from Solo about which brokers to reach out to to fill certain, you know, liquidity for any particular stock.

Is that right?

20 If you look at the Michelle plan's purchase of TDC shares in August of 2012, did 21 the various plans that were set up in 2012 22 23 trade in other Danish stocks in 2012?

> Α Yes

Q And did the trades follow the same

Page 276

patterns as what we saw with the TDC purchase, meaning a purchase, a stock loan, and a hedge?

In order, a purchase, a hedge, a Α receipt of dividend, and a stock loan.

Okay. Do you know how many plans that you were associated with traded in Danish securities in 2012?

Approximately six.

Okay. As part of the transactions you just described, one of the ones you mentioned was the receipt of the dividend.

How did the pension plan receive the dividend in connection with the shares that it purchased?

Received it into its custodial Α account at Solo Capital.

Q Do you know who sent -- well, withdrawn.

From where did the dividend come that came into the custodial account of the plan?

MR. BONGIORNO: Objection.

23 24 Α Can you repeat the question, 25 please?

Page 277

Where did the dividend come from that would be credited to the plan's custodial account?

In our experience, learning about 5 dividend arbitrage trading, it either came directly from the company paying the dividend or, if that payment got redirected somewhere 7 else by mistake, or by not having proper records, at the central security depository, 10 then the seller of the shares would have to 11 make a payment and they would receive the 12 dividend directly.

Okay. In connection with the purchase of Danish securities that was done on behalf of these pension plans, do you know, typically, did the dividend that was received come directly from the issuer company?

Again, as I said, we're talking Α about the theoretical, that's how the payments were made. Money into our account is money, and it was a dividend payment.

23 And I have -- don't have any idea 24 as to the routing or origin of that payment, 25 but it was a dividend payable by the company.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COU	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW Y	
CASE NO. 18-MD-2865 (LAK)
IN RE:)
)
CUSTOMS AND TAX ADMINISTRATION OF)
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK)
(SKATTEFORVALTNINGEN) TAX REFUND)
SCHEME LITIGATION)
)
This document relates to case nos.)
19-cv-01783; 19-cv-01788; 19-cv-01794;)
19-cv-01798; 19-cv-01918)
	_)
CONFIDENTIAL	
SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTIVE OR	DER
CONTINUED REMOTE VTC VIDEOTAPED DEPO	SITION UNDER
ORAL EXAMINATION OF	
RICHARD MARKOWITZ	
VOLUME II	
DATE: April 9, 2021	

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38 (Pages 451 to 454)

Page 451

A We received advice that explained the issues surrounding that related to a different jurisdiction in Denmark, and that it created additional tax risk for the pension plans.

Q Okay. Can you turn, please, to Exhibit 1829?

MR. BONGIORNO: Day 1, Volume 1.

Q This e-mail from you is about
Danish reclaim payments received from Syntax.
Is that right?

A Yes.

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And you say in the e-mail that "the amounts on the spreadsheet were sent to each plan's respective custodian, and then 75 percent of the gross reclaim was paid out to Ganymede."

And in 2015, why was 75 percent of the gross reclaim paid out to Ganymede?

A In late 2014, after the partners of Argre decided not to work together, we weren't sure we would be able to continue doing business with Solo Capital or its related entities.

And as I mentioned, two of my

Page 452

1 former partners, Mr. Stein and Mr. Lhote, had
2 decided to go off and do business on their
3 own. And they had acquired North Channel
4 Bank, got authorizations to have it act as a
5 custodian, had decided to work with former
6 employees of Solo, and were going to be
7 effectively competing in this dividend
8 arbitrage marketplace.

So with respect to Solo Capital, where Mr. Van Merkensteijn and myself, and ultimately Mr. Klugman, preferred to continue our relationship and client business, we had discussions that initially were tense because Mr. Shah thought that Mr. Van Merkensteijn and myself were investors in the bank, aware of the developments, were going to be competing.

And we assured them that that was farthest from the truth. We had no relationship with that, we're not aware of it, or became aware of it at the time that Argre Management effectively dissolved.

And Mr. Shah said that he would consider allowing us to participate as customers and clients with different

Page 453

entities, those that were no longer affiliated with or related to Mr. Stein and — Mr. Stein and Mr. Lhote, and the economics would most likely change because there would be additional competitors in the marketplace, North Channel Bank, the ability to get liquidity in shares would be impacted, and that we would be — the pension plans would be receiving a lower percentage based on the market pricing and the fees paid to the other counterparties.

And that became 66 percent to 75 percent that would be paid away by the pension plans because of this market development, and perhaps Mr. Shah being upset and associating Mr. Van Merkensteijn and myself with the actions of my former partners.

Q So, in this particular case, adding competitors into the market actually drove up the fee as opposed to the additional competitors usually driving a fee down?

A No. Additional competitors in the marketplace drive up the cost of borrowing shares if it's a stock lending transaction,

Page 454

1 or more people competing for the same 2 potential sellers of shares, whether they're 3 sourcing them through short sales or not.

So you have the same number of shares in the marketplace, fixed by shares outstanding or those willing to participate as sellers in the transaction, same number of shares, now another competitor looking to acquire those shares for a structured trade.

And if I'm the party supplying those shares, I'm happy, because I'm going to charge more money, because there's two more parties — another party competing for my limited resource.

15 **Q** Okay. Would you expect that that 16 price impact would also impact the former 17 Argre people who were now working through 18 North Channel Bank?

A I assume so, yes.

20 **Q** Okay. But you don't know if that 21 was the case?

A I don't know.

23 **Q** After this change where 75 percent 24 would be paid to Ganymede, were there new 25 services agreements between the pension plans

62 (Pages 547 to 550)

Page 548

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Page 547
                                                                     Exhibit 2244 is an e-mail from
              You understand that Sanjay Shah has
1
                                                       1
2
   been criminally charged for his role in the
                                                       2
                                                          Mr. Ben-Jacob to you and others in which he
 3
   dividend arbitrage strategy?
                                                       3
                                                          attaches Kaye Scholer's finalized memorandum
 4
              I'm not aware of the details of the
                                                       4
                                                          discussing disqualified person issues as they
5
    charges or what the equivalent terminology is
                                                       5
                                                          relate to the Michelle structure.
 6
    in Denmark.
                                                       6
                                                                     Do you see that?
                                                       7
 7
         Q
              You understand he has been charged,
                                                                     Yes.
                                                                A
8
   but you don't know the details?
                                                       8
                                                                     Okay. And on Page 3, towards the
9
              Again, I just -- whatever I've read
                                                       9
                                                          top of the page, it says that "we understand
    in the press is all I know. So I have not
                                                          that Solo provided the entire structure of
10
                                                      10
    been instructed on it or told about it or
                                                          the trading strategy to the trustee."
11
                                                      11
                                                      12
                                                                    Was that correct?
12
    given any details, no.
13
         Q
              Okay. Have you had any
                                                      13
                                                               Α
                                                                     I'm sorry. Which page?
   conversations with Mr. Shah since he was
14
                                                      14
                                                               Q
                                                                     Page 3.
15
   charged?
                                                      15
                                                                     (Witness reviewing.)
                                                                A
16
              No.
                                                      16
                                                                     Yes.
         Α
17
         Q
              Can you turn to Exhibit 2244?
                                                      17
                                                                     Okay. If you turn to Page 5, the
18
              MR. WEINSTEIN: Mark this as 2244.
                                                          first full paragraph, the second sentence
                                                      18
19
              (Whereupon the above mentioned was
                                                      19
                                                          says, "The documents for the transaction
20
         marked for Identification.)
                                                      20
                                                          indicate that of the gross amount payable to
                                                          the Michelle plan, the Michelle plan retained
21
              Can you tell us what book that's
                                                      21
22
   in?
                                                          approximately 34 percent and the remaining
                                                      22
23
              MR. BONGIORNO: I think it's in
                                                      23
                                                          66 percent was paid to Solo."
                                                                    Correct?
24
         today's book.
                                                      24
25
              (Witness reviewing.)
                                                      25
         Α
                                                               Α
                                                                     Yes.
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Page 549

You told us earlier today that at some point in 2014 or early '15, the amount 2 paid to Solo increased to 75 percent. 4 Is that right? 5 A Yes. 6 Did you go back to Kaye Scholer and 7 ask whether any advice that they had provided 8 changed or would remain the same in light of 9 that new fee structure? 10 Α They were aware of the new fee 11 structure and never advised us that we would 12 need to update or receive an additional 13 memorandum.

So you didn't receive any Q 0kay. analysis from Kaye Scholer in light of the new fee structure?

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We didn't receive any written information from Kaye Scholer. And the fee schedule was disclosed and made aware to Kave Scholer.

And if they had a concern about it, including needing to revisit this memorandum, they would have instructed us and informed us of that.

> Q 0kay. It says -- after that

Page 550

```
sentence, it says, "Solo was responsible for
    paying significant costs and expenses
 2
 3
    associated with the transaction, including
    trading commissions, legal fees, brokerage
    fees, accounting fees, tax reclaim service
 5
 6
    fees, custodial service fees, leverage
 7
    provided fees, and guarantee fees.
8
              And did they obtain that
9
    information from you and the other Argre
10
    principals?
11
         Α
              I don't recall.
12
              Okay. They don't list a 50 percent
13
    profit share with the seller amongst the
    costs and fees that Solo would have to pay.
15
              Do you know why that is?
16
         A
17
              The last paragraph on that page
    says, "While the documents provide that the
18
19
    66 percent paid to Solo is a fee to Solo, the
20
    understanding of the parties at the time the
21
    transaction was entered into was that Solo
22
    and the Michelle plan were instead
23
    effectively engaged in a partnership under
24
    which the profits would be shared between
25
    them under the above profit allocation, with
```